

METHOD AND APPARATUS SUPPORTING NETWORK COMMUNICATIONS THROUGH A FIREWALL

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5 ABSTRACT

A method of communicating information between a first program and a second program over a network is described. The method includes relaying the information between the first program and a first communications program over a first network connection, relaying the information between the first communications 10 program and a second communications program over a second network connection and relaying the information between the second communications program and the second program over a third network connection. Further, the first communications program creates the second network connection to the second communications program through a first firewall program, which prevents access to the first program initiated by the second program. Thus, the second network connection is initiated by 15 the first communications program. ~~As will be discussed,~~ ^{The} the first communications program can be, for example, a protocol daemon and the second communications program can be, for example, a relay program. The first firewall program can also be configured to prevent access to the first program initiated by the second 20 communications program.